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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

**TAJIMA, Akio**

Serial No.: 10/620,685

Group Art Unit: 2613

Filed: July 17, 2003

Examiner: Le, Thi Q.

For: **AN OPTICAL SIGNAL SWITCHING DEVICE FOR USE IN AN OPTICAL PROTECTION NETWORK**

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97-§1.98**

Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 through §1.98 and pursuant to Applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant respectfully brings the following documents cited in the Japanese Office Action in a counterpart foreign application and listed on the attached form PTO-1449, to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 35 U.S.C. §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits a translation of portions of an official action by a foreign examiner in which the references were cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent application is that the references were cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the references, the accuracy of the statement of the foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of that country of the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made, the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the translation of the foreign examiner's comments submitted herewith. Further, English-language Abstracts are attached to the references.

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This citation does not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims. They are only cited as constituting related art of which Applicant is aware.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was the first citation of that item by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, which occurred not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

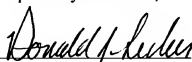
It is respectfully requested that the listed reference(s) be considered by the Examiner and formally made of record in this application.

Submitted herewith is a check in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the IDS fee.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: October 11, 2007

  
Donald J. Lecher, Esq.  
Reg. No. 41,933  
Sean M. McGinn, Esq.  
Reg. No. 34,386

**McGinn Intellectual Property Law Group, PLLC**  
8321 Old Courthouse Rd., Suite 200  
Vienna, Virginia 22182  
(703) 761-4100  
**Customer No. 21254**